

WILD NEWS



Nature Program Calendar

October – December 2003

A Fall Celebration at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge!

As fall arrives at the Refuge, the year-long celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial comes to a close. What better way to look forward to the next 100 years than by joining us in a Centennial celebration during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October? Come on out and see wildlife amidst the brilliant fall colors during our special nature programs and tours offered throughout the season. The Refuge is open every Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. The Refuge may be closed on short notice. Please call us at **(303) 289-0930** before your visit. For the protection of wildlife, pets are not permitted on the Refuge. Assistance dogs are welcome. For more information about the Refuge, visit our web site at <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>.

Reservations are required for these popular programs. Space is limited. Call (303) 289-0930 to register. For all programs please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. If you have questions about which programs would be appropriate for certain ages, please ask when making your reservation. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All programs and activities are **FREE**. The driver must show photo I.D. to enter the Refuge. Please sign-in at the Visitor Center upon arrival.

OCTOBER

Waterfowl I.D.



Saturday, October 4 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 5 10:00 am - Noon

Come and see redheads, golden eyes, and ring-necked ducks along with a variety of other waterfowl before they head south. Join a waterfowl expert and learn how to I.D. these divers and dabblers visiting the Refuge lakes.

3rd Annual Bluestem Banquet

Friday, October 10 6:00 pm

The RMA Wildlife Society and Two Ponds Preservation Foundation proudly presents the 3rd annual Bluestem Banquet in celebration of the Centennial and National Wildlife Refuge Week! John Steinle will portray the first game warden of Pelican Island, Paul Kroegel. High School scholarship essay contest winners will be announced. A silent auction also will be held. For information and reservations, contact the Society at 303-289-0820.

Refuge Hayride

Sunday, October 19 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Saturday, October 25 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Sunday, October 26 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Kick up your feet and relax during this slow and easy hayride. Feel the crisp autumn air while looking for wildlife among fall colors. Listen to wildlife stories as you meander through prairie, wetlands, and woodlands.

NOVEMBER

Wildlife Photo Workshop

Saturday, November 1 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Sunday, November 2 7:00 - 10:00 am

Learn the basics of wildlife photography including techniques and ethics, and how to tell if you're too close to a wild animal. Discover some tricks of the trade from experienced photographers. Bring your own camera and try out your new skills.

Photo Workshop for Wildlife Society Members

Saturday, November 1 7:00 - 10:00 am

Get the best light of day on this early fall morning photo workshop sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Society. Two expert photographers will provide photo tips and take you to woodland and lake locations for some shutter bug fun. Take home a wildflower print ready for framing that was taken on the Refuge. Light refreshments will be available. Space is limited.

Hunters of the Sky

Saturday, November 8 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 9 10:00 am - Noon

Hawks, eagles, and falcons soar the Refuge skies in search of food. Learn basic raptor identification before heading out on a tour of the Refuge to put your new skills to the test. A live raptor will be on display for photos.



Wild Rides



Saturdays 10:00 am - Noon
Sundays 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Refuge on this "wild" ride. Two-hour guided trolley-tram tours are offered each weekend. Reservations are required.

Reservations are not required for the following programs:

Wild Treks Drop-In Program

Saturdays and Sundays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Don't miss the spectacular colors of fall! New seasonal activities are waiting for you at discovery stations in the Wildlife Learning Lab. See live honeybees in the honeybee tree at work preparing for the winter. Feel the cool autumn air hiking on nearly 8 miles of trail. Browse through the Wildlife Society's bookstore and gift shop and get the latest in Centennial and holiday merchandise.

Scout Packs

Saturdays and Sundays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Calling all scouts! Visit the Refuge during drop-in hours and earn merits toward your wildlife badges by checking out a backpack filled with field study guides, binoculars, and activities. Then, head out to the trails for some wildlife fun! To earn merits toward badges, call 303-289-0930 for more information.

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week

Saturday October 18 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join the Fish and Wildlife Service at this **FREE** public event as we look forward to the next 100 years of Conservation. Scheduled activities include tours, hayrides, interactive educational booths, special presentations and exhibits. See live birds of prey up-close and personal. Complimentary light refreshments will be served. Lunch will be provided at a minimal purchase. Access to the Refuge for this event only will be the West Gate at 72nd and Quebec. Shuttles will run continuously and handicapped parking will be available at the Visitor Center. **Reservations are required for tours and hayrides only.** For more information call 303-289-0930.

The Refuge will be closed on October 11-12. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Magnificent Mulies

Saturday, November 15
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 16
10:00 am - Noon



Join us on a Refuge tour in search of our magnificent mule deer! It's the peak of the breeding season and the bucks are showing off their spectacular antlers! Learn the differences between a mule deer and a white-tailed deer. We can teach you about the secret world of deer communication and behavior. Bring your friends and family on a "photo" hunt for some of the biggest mule deer in Colorado!

An American Native - The Wild Turkey!

Saturday, November 22 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 23 10:00 am - Noon

This North American native was once on the verge of extinction. In a true wildlife success story, conservation efforts helped save the wild turkey in North America. Join a fun and educational program about this beautiful bird and learn why Benjamin Franklin wanted the wild turkey on a seal and not on our table.



Holiday Tour

Saturday, November 29 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 30 10:00 am - Noon

Need something to do with friends and relatives during the holidays? Bring them out for a special guided tour of the Refuge! Look for spectacular wildlife including bald eagles and other wintering raptors, coyotes, and deer. Wrap up your journey with a warm cup of cider or hot chocolate. Kids can make a holiday treat to take home.

DECEMBER

Winter Skies

Saturday, December 6 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Sunday, December 7 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Want to know more about the mission to Mars and other Jet Propulsion Lab/NASA probes to planets? What planets and stars are visible this time of year? Join Larry Sessions, astronomy professor at Metro State, on an exploration of the great outdoors through a telescope. This program is not recommended for children under the age of 10. Space is limited. Program will take place rain, snow or fair weather.



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Where Are They Now?

Saturday, December 13 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, December 14 10:00 am - Noon

Ever wonder where reptiles, amphibians, and insects go for the winter? After a quick slide show, we'll head out to the Lake Mary Trail to learn more about hibernation and what other incredible creatures go through for winter survival.



Eagles on Holiday!

Saturday, December 20 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, December 21 10:00 am - Noon

Humans are not the only ones who travel to warmer destinations when winter arrives. Learn about eagles, their migration, and their life here on the Refuge. A guided tour and a chance to see these majestic creatures in the wild will be provided.

Kids Day

Saturday, December 27 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Hey Kids! Want to have a fun-filled day just for you? Come on a wildlife scavenger hunt, have fun with nature crafts, and take a “kids only” discovery tour of the Refuge. A light snack will be provided. Parent or Guardian must be present.

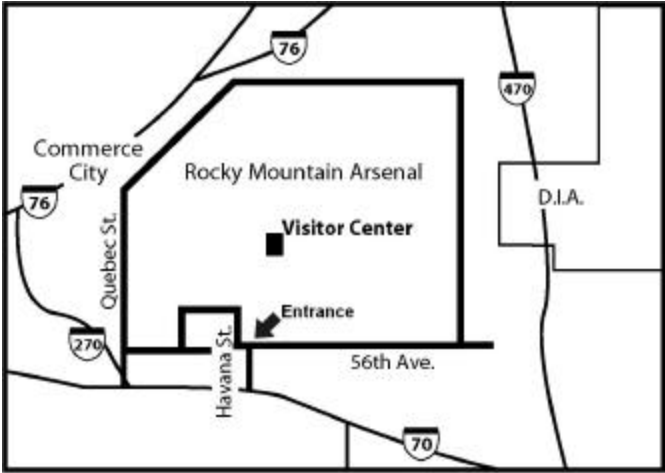
Holiday Tour

Sunday, December 28 10:00 am - Noon

Wind down from the hustle and bustle of the holidays by joining us on a special guided winter wildlife tour. Take home a holiday nature craft. Light refreshments and hot chocolate will warm you up!

Printed on recycled paper.

Directions to the Refuge:
Enter the Refuge at 56th Avenue
and Havana. Parking is
available at the Visitor Center.



U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge
Building 111
Commerce City, CO
80022-1748



PRST STD
Postage and
Fees Paid
U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
PERMIT G-77